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ENGLISH 338: SHAKESPEARE
(Tuesdays & Thursdays, 10:00-11:20am)

COURSE DESCRIPTION

This course introduces you to the dramatic work of Shakespeare through a close study of nine representative plays. We will appreciate them as poetic drama, but we will pay special attention to how they have been (and might be) performed.

REQUIRED TEXT (*available at Amherst Books*)

The Norton Shakespeare, 2nd edition (2008)

(NOTE: if you own another scholarly Complete Shakespeare already and would like to use it instead, please consult me before doing so.)

COURSE FORMAT

Like many Amherst College courses, this one will blend lecture and discussion formats. I will often ask you to volunteer reactions or interpretations, and I encourage you to interrupt me at any time with questions or comments.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS

Reading Responses: For each play on this syllabus, beginning with *Romeo & Juliet*, you must send me a brief response. This response can be sent in at any point during our study of a given play, but it is due at least twelve hours before the last class on that play. Responses can take many forms. In them, you might analyze a short scene or passage, or compare this play to another. You may focus on language or visualize staging. You might make arguments or simply pose good questions. And you may also, where appropriate, respond to the film paired with a given play.

Exercises, Reactions, & Creative Project: You must complete four informal writing assignments and participate in one creative project, as indicated on the schedule below.

Formal Papers: This course requires two formal papers, each approximately five pages long. I encourage you to visit my regular office hours to plan for these papers.

Screenings/Viewings: Where indicated, screenings of related films will be held on Tuesdays. You are expected to attend either a 4:00pm or a 7:00pm screening. Where the schedule below says “watch” rather than “screening,” the material will be available to stream online.

Required Field Trip: On Sunday, November 1st, we will travel together to see *Sleep No More*, an enormous installation/performance piece based on *Macbeth*. The bus will leave campus at noon and return after midnight. Please plan accordingly.

Final Exam: This course will culminate in a written final exam. You will be able to take it during any of the time slots offered by the registrar for self-scheduled exams.

GRADING

Exercises will be graded on a non-alphabetic scale, as follows:

- ✓- You’ve fallen short. You should discuss the exercise with me.
- ✓ You’ve hit the mark.
- ✓+ You’ve done especially well.

Your final grade will be calculated as follows:

- ⅓ Final exam
- ⅓ Formal papers
- ⅓ Exercises, reactions, responses, and creative project

You must complete all assignments in this course in order to receive a passing grade.

A NOTE ON ACADEMIC INTEGRITY

Any time you use another person’s words or ideas without giving them credit, that is plagiarism. Plagiarism is not only bad for you education; it also fundamentally undermines the process of academic dialogue. Be sure to cite your sources properly, and if you are uncertain whether citation is necessary in a particular circumstance, just ask.



COURSE SCHEDULE

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|---|----------|---------------------------------------|
| T | Sept. 8 | Lecture: The Idea of Shakespeare |
| Th | Sept. 10 | Lecture: Material Shakespeare |
| Fr-Sat: attend a performance of <i>Pericles</i> in the Kirby Theater | | |
| | | |
| T | Sept. 15 | <i>Richard III</i> |
| | | SCREENING: <i>Looking for Richard</i> |

Th	Sept. 17	<i>Richard III</i>
T	Sept. 22	<i>Romeo & Juliet</i>
	SCREENING:	<i>Nature Theater of Oklahoma's Romeo & Juliet</i>
Th	Sept. 24	<i>Romeo & Juliet</i>
T	Sept. 29	<i>Henry IV, pt. 1</i>
Th	Oct. 1	<i>Henry IV, pt. 1</i>
T	Oct. 6	<i>Much Ado About Nothing</i>
	SCREENING:	<i>Much Ado About Nothing</i> (<u>vote</u> : Branagh or Whedon?)
Th	Oct. 8	<i>Much Ado About Nothing</i>
T	Oct. 13	[FALL BREAK: Monday schedule; no class]
W	Oct. 14	Staging exercise due by 5pm (1-2 pages)
Th	Oct. 15	<i>Hamlet</i>
		WATCH: <i>Slings & Arrows</i> , season 1, ep. 1-3
T	Oct. 20	<i>Hamlet</i>
		WATCH: <i>Slings & Arrows</i> , season 1, ep. 4-6
Th	Oct. 22	Discuss <i>Slings & Arrows</i> , season 1

Midterm, analytic paper due by 5pm on Sunday, March 17 (~5 pages)

T	Oct. 27	<i>Macbeth</i>
Th	Oct. 29	<i>Macbeth</i>
		PERFORMANCE: <i>Sleep No More</i> (On bus to NYC, screen <i>Vertigo</i>)
M	Nov. 2	<i>Sleep No More</i> reaction due by 5pm (1-2 pages)
T	Nov. 3	discuss <i>Sleep No More</i>
		WATCH: <i>Slings & Arrows</i> , season 2
Th	Nov. 5	discuss <i>Slings & Arrows</i> , season 2
T	Nov. 10	[Do Something with <i>Macbeth</i>]
Th	Nov. 12	[Do Something with <i>Macbeth</i>]
M	Nov. 16	Reaction to last week's classes, due by 5pm (1-2 pages)
T	Nov. 17	<i>Measure for Measure</i>
Th	Nov. 19	<i>Measure for Measure</i>

THANKSGIVING BREAK

T	Dec. 1	<i>King Lear</i>
Th	Dec. 3	<i>King Lear</i>

T Dec. 8 *The Tempest*

Th Dec. 10 *The Tempest*

Sun Dec. 13 Final, reflective Paper due by 5pm (~5 pages)

T Dec. 15 Conclusions

Self-Scheduled Final Exam